

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Added text is indicated by underlining, deleted text is indicated by ~~striketrough~~. Changes are identified by a change bar in the margin.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for updating information on security, in which a plurality of clients are connected with a storage apparatus through a network, said storage apparatus storing security information, said method comprising:

storing operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus;

sending said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients; and

updating said security information stored in said storage apparatus, wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients before said plurality of clients are initiated, ~~regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A method for updating information on security according to claim 1, wherein said storage apparatus is connected to a management computer through said network and wherein said updating said security information is conducted by said management computer.

4. (previously presented) A method for updating information on security according to claim 1, wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use.

5. (currently amended) A method for updating information on security, in which a plurality of clients are connected with a storage apparatus through a network, said storage apparatus storing security information, said method comprising:

storing operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus;

sending said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients; and

updating said security information stored in said storage apparatus, wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated;

wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use;

~~A method for updating information on security according to claim 4,~~
wherein said security information includes access control information with respect to said files that said clients use.

6. (previously presented) A method for updating information on security according to claim 1, wherein said clients reference said security information of said clients.

7. (currently amended) A method for updating information on security, in which a plurality of clients are connected with a storage apparatus through a network, said storage apparatus storing security information, said method comprising:

storing operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus;

sending said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients; and

updating said security information stored in said storage apparatus,
wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and
said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security
information of said plurality of clients regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are
initiated;

wherein said clients reference said security information of said clients;

~~A method for updating information on security according to claim 6,~~

wherein said security information includes authentication information for
permitting use of said clients by a user.

8. (currently amended) A plurality of clients connected through a network,
said plurality of clients comprising:

a storage apparatus storing security information, said storage apparatus including
a program configured to update security information of a plurality of clients before said plurality
of clients are initiated; ~~regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated;~~ and

a unit referencing said security information,

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said
storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said
plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said
application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in
response to requests from said plurality of clients.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A plurality of clients according to claim 8, wherein
a management computer is connected to said storage apparatus through said network and said
security information of said clients is updated by said management computer.

11. (previously presented) A plurality of clients according to claim 8, wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use.

12. (currently amended) A plurality of clients connected through a network, said plurality of clients comprising:

a storage apparatus storing security information, said storage apparatus including a program configured to update security information of a plurality of clients regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated; and

a unit referencing said security information,

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients;

wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use;

A plurality of clients according to claim 11,

wherein said security information of said clients includes access control information with respect to said files that said clients use.

13. (currently amended) A plurality of clients connected through a network, said plurality of clients comprising:

a storage apparatus storing security information, said storage apparatus including a program configured to update security information of a plurality of clients regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated; and

a unit referencing said security information,

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said

application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients;

~~A plurality of clients according to claim 8,~~

wherein said security information includes authentication information for permitting use of said clients by a user.

14. (currently amended) A storage apparatus connected to a plurality of clients through a network, said storage apparatus comprising:

a unit communicating with said plurality of clients through said network,

wherein said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients before said plurality of clients are initiated ~~regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated.~~

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A storage apparatus according to claim 14, wherein a management computer is connected to said storage apparatus through said network and said security information is updated by said management computer.

17. (previously presented) A storage apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use.

18. (currently amended) A storage apparatus connected to a plurality of clients through a network, said storage apparatus comprising:

a unit communicating with said plurality of clients through said network,

wherein said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated,

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients;

wherein said storage apparatus stores files that said clients use, and wherein said security information includes attributes relating to said files that said clients use;

~~A storage apparatus according to claim 17,~~

wherein said security information includes access control information with respect to said files that said clients use.

19. (previously presented) A storage apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said security information is referenced by said clients.

20. (previously presented) A storage apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said security information includes authentication information for permitting use of said clients by a user.

21. (currently amended) A management computer connected through a network to a storage apparatus and a plurality of clients, said storage apparatus storing security information, said management computer comprising:

a unit communicating with said storage apparatus through said network,

wherein said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients before said plurality of clients are initiated~~regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated,~~

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said

plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients.

22. (currently amended) A method for updating information on security in a plurality of clients and a storage apparatus connected with each other through a network, said storage apparatus configured to store a file to be accessed by said clients and security information to be used in access control for said file, said method comprising:

in said storage apparatus, receiving security information from a management computer connected via the network, and updating said security information stored in said storage apparatus to the received security information, and

in said plurality of clients, each time said plurality of clients access said file stored in said storage apparatus, referencing said security information stored in said storage apparatus, and performing access control for said file based on said security information,

wherein said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security information of said plurality of clients before said plurality of clients are initiated regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are initiated,

wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and said storage apparatus is configured to store operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus; and to send said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients.

23. (currently amended) A method for updating information on security, in which a plurality of clients are connected with a storage apparatus through a network, said storage apparatus storing security information, said method comprising:

storing operation systems, application programs, and data of said plurality of clients in said storage apparatus;

sending said operation systems and said application programs to said plurality of clients when said plurality of clients are initiated in response to requests from said plurality of clients; and

updating said security information stored in said storage apparatus,
wherein said plurality of clients do not include a local disk device, and
said storage apparatus includes a program configured to update security
information of said plurality of clients ~~regardless of whether or not said plurality of clients are~~
initiated before said plurality of clients are initiated;

wherein said security information includes access control information with
respect to said files that said clients use;

wherein said security information includes authentication information for
permitting use of said clients by a user.